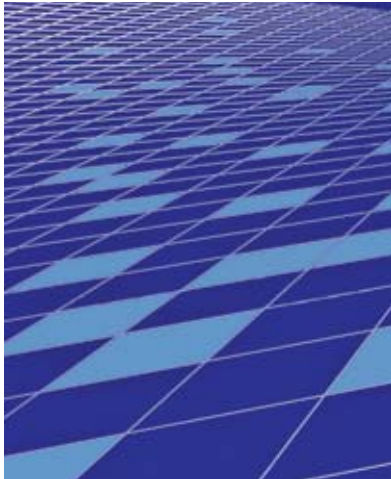


# frontline



miamisburg mound community improvement corporation

summer 2006



## mound fuel-cell company plans production in 2006

Thomas Willis is making it his business to help the U.S. curb its consumption of fossil fuels. And since he realizes that this technology-driven nation's appetite for energy isn't about to shrink, this successful entrepreneur-scientist-engineer is approaching the problem in a most practical way: He is perfecting an alternative to conventional power sources.

### In Search Of The Holy Grail

Willis' company, Precision Energy and Technology, is on the leading edge of manufacturing development for hydrogen fuel cells. Newly located at the Mound Advanced Technology Center, the firm is an Ohio Third Frontier Program grantee focused on manufacturing membrane electrode assemblies,

the basic unit of the fuel cell that combines layers of various materials to generate energy. The challenge is to arrive at the ideal formulation of each layer, such that cost is minimized and output is maximized. "Everyone is looking for effective combinations that also are efficient enough to keep costs down," the Pittsburgh native said. "That's the Holy Grail in our industry."

Willis, a graduate of Ohio State University's mechanical engineering program, plans to be in full production by September 2006 and hopes to employ up to 20 people by the end of 2007.

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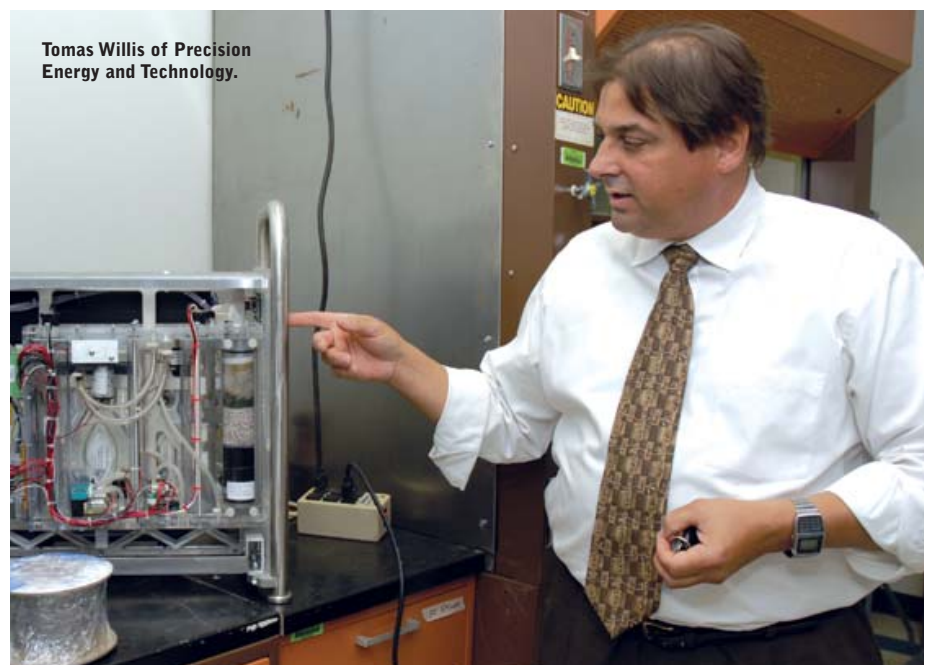
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Thomas Willis of Precision Energy and Technology.



(“Fuel Cell” continued from page 1.)

## Finding Mound ‘Great Fortune’

Locating the company at Mound happened quite by chance. A presenter at a hydrogen fuel-cell symposium in Dayton last fall, Willis met MMCIC’s Carl Simmons, who saw the potential for Mound to meet the company’s unique space and equipment needs.

“It was great fortune for me to find a facility so well constructed and suited to our needs,” said Willis, who is leasing 2,000 square feet of lab space and converting equipment previously devoted to the manufacturing of flexible circuits. “Timing is everything.”

## ‘Could Really Make Things Happen’

In addition to the attractive space and equipment package made available to him at Mound, Willis is excited about his opportunities for business growth by working with other site companies involved in hydrogen fuel-cell research for the Third Frontier Program. For example, he has already collaborated with EMTEC and Inorganic Specialists to submit one grant proposal. He hopes several more will follow.

“Ohio is one of the country’s foremost areas for fuel-cell development,” he said. “It’s great to be among so many skilled and talented people who are working at it right here on this campus. With these synergies, we could really make things happen.”

## change evident at mound

With numerous improvement projects under way, multi-tasking has been the norm for MMCIC officials as they prepare the Mound site for the marketplace. One of the most visible areas of change is around 480 Capstone Circle, the former Department of Energy administration center for Mound. The nearby guard post and security fences have been removed, and construction is under way for the installation of storm sewers, the addition of 193 new parking spaces and the restoration of the courtyard.

“The removal of security fencing and the guard post have had a huge impact on the appearance of the area around the building,” said MMCIC Operations Director Frank Bullock. “It’s a nice-looking facility with a modern, corporate look.”

At the same time, a new cul-de-sac road will be built adjacent to the facility to improve traffic circulation and access to other site locations as well as parking lot ingress and egress.

Meanwhile, improvements such as painting and general maintenance are taking place within the 89,290-square-foot building, which features an auditorium, cafeteria and executive boardroom. All the improvements will be completed by the end of summer.

“The building is well positioned in the marketplace from standpoint of size, location and amenities,” said leasing agent Paul Miller, vice president of sales for the Miller-Valentine Group. “It’s of high quality, and I’m optimistic about finding the right tenant or tenants.”



**This major office building is undergoing changes that will make it more attractive and user-friendly for business tenants. One of the major improvements is the construction of additional parking.**

## wsu offers tech-based mba program at mound

A new graduate business program focused on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship will be offered next year by Wright State University’s Raj Soin College of Business. Where better to present these classes than the Mound Advanced Technology Center?

Starting next January, the cohort-based MBA course offerings will be delivered on weekends at the Mound campus, in partnership with MMCIC. The courses are not being replicated on Wright State’s main campus.

“The program is targeted to technologically oriented managers and employees, in recognition of the growing importance of innovation

and technology-based entrepreneurship in our region,” said WSU economics professor Dr. Bob Premus. “The curriculum will include concentration courses focusing on innovation and technology-related issues, and each core course in the program will be infused with these perspectives as well.”

Core courses include:

- Leading Teams and Organizations
- Marketing Strategy, Analysis of the Global Economy
- Financial Analysis and Decision Making
- Strategic Cost Management
- Legal and Ethical Decision Making

- IT and Business Transformation
- Supply Chain Management.

Concentration courses include:

- Entrepreneurship
- Technology-Based Organizations
- Managing for Creativity and Innovation.

In addition, the program will feature key speakers, business leaders with innovation and technology-related expertise. Also included will be a project-based capstone course to complete the program.

“For years, Mound was synonymous with

**(Continued on next page.)**



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innovation," said MMCIC president Mike Grauwelman. "It's exciting to be able to restore the site as a place where new ideas and creativity can flourish."

For more information about this program, please contact Carolyn Rice, director of Executive Education for the Raj Sooin College of Business, at 937-775-3609.

## what really happened 'on the hill'

### Museum Association Features Speakers

The Mound Museum Association is continuing its popular speakers series, which reveals the facts about many of the top-secret missions and operations carried out during Mound's 50-year history as a DOE defense weapons facility.

#### July 26 – Health Physics/Physicist

**Warren Sheehan** will explore radioactivity measurement

**August 23 – Dr. E.J. Reagan** will speak about Mound employee health care

**September 27 – Howard Dufour** will discuss quartz microbalance as related to the Manhattan Project

All presentations begin at 7 p.m. at 955 Mound Road on the Mound campus.

## board member in tune with community's views



**MMCIC board member Bob Bell previously served on the Miamisburg City Council for 13 years.**

As a teenager growing up in Miamisburg, MMCIC board member Bob Bell watched as the vacant property adjacent to the historical Indian mound was transformed into a top-secret defense weapons installation. Now, sixty years later, he's playing a key role in its second transformation, this time to a technology and business park.

### Genuine Concern For The Community

Having served as a Miamisburg city councilman for 13 years, as well as a volunteer on various boards and commissions, Bell was a logical choice five years ago when MMCIC sought a new board member with a solid track record in representing the community's

interests. His years of experience in running the family business, Bell Vault and Monument, were considered a bonus. "During his tenure on city council, Bob was well respected for his level-headedness, good judgment and genuine concern for the community," said MMCIC President Mike Grauwelman. "As a longtime resident of Miamisburg, he brings to the board invaluable knowledge and history."

DOE's decision to close Mound came while Bell was still serving on city council. "Like most, I was really worried about what would happen to the property," he said. "Our goal was to get the property environmentally restored to where it could be reused."

### Leading Technology Center

As for the future, Bell believes that, with aggressive marketing and improved access via Austin Road, the Mound Advanced Technology Center will become a leading technology center for the Dayton region and the state of Ohio.

"The core businesses that are already there will attract even more companies," he said. "In ten years, it will be a centerpiece for the technology industry in our region."

The 70-year-old Bell, who nine years ago retired and turned over the family business to his sons, Greg and Tim, now pursues running as his favorite pastime. He runs in – and trains for – up five marathons per year. He resides in Germantown.

## cleanup nears completion

With environmental cleanup contractor CH2M Hill closing in on completion of its work at Mound, more than a few of the officials involved in the Mound redevelopment project are ready to celebrate. The physical cleanup will be finished by the end of the month, although one last area of contamination, known as OU-1, remains. It is scheduled to be cleaned up under a separate contract by the end of 2006, now that the federal government has earmarked \$30 million for the area's remediation.

"I feel pretty good about completing the project," said DOE's Don Pfister, federal project director at the Mound Closure project. "Once we finalize the documentation, we will offer the property to MMCIC for industrial reuse."

Since beginning the work in December 2002, CH2M Hill workers have excavated 9.5 million cubic feet of soil and rubble, and shipped 9 million cubic feet off site. The remaining portion will soon be shipped out as well. Sixty-six

buildings were razed, while nine were environmentally cleaned and prepared for reuse.

"It's exciting. We have been looking forward to this day since we got involved with the Mound reuse project 12 years ago," said MMCIC Board member Don Koller. "Those days of waiting are behind us, and we're looking forward to a bright future for the Mound Advanced Technology Center."







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**FRONTLINE** is a summary of news and information about the Mound Advanced Technology Center. It is published for stakeholders by the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corporation. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call us at 937-865-4462.

## specialized space available

Need space for a call center or communications/data facility? The Mound Advanced Technology Center might be the right place for you.

A 6,300-square-foot building at 790 Enterprise Court, ideal for these types of uses, is currently available. A bunkered, disaster-proof building,

it features concrete perimeter walls and a backup generator along with a security system. The facility is set up for 24/7 operation, complete with lockers, a shower and a kitchen.

For more information, please contact Tina Ortiz of Mark Fornes Realty at 973-434-2000.



This disaster-proof building at 790 Enterprise Court is ideal for a 24/7 call center operation.

